

**Claims:**

1. A shotgun shell comprising:
  - a) a shotgun shell casing having an ignition primer, said casing further  
5 having an interior;
  - b) propellant positioned in said casing proximate to said primer; and
  - c) a single non-combustible, non-luminous indicator positioned in said  
casing, said indicator having a mass and an observable size whereby  
discharge of said propellant expels said indicator from said casing and  
10 from a shotgun barrel for unaided observation by a person relative to a  
target.
2. The shotgun shell according to claim 1, said indicator further comprising ballast.
3. A shotgun shell according to claim 2, said indicator further comprising one or  
more petals.
- 15 4. The shotgun shell according to claim 3 further comprising shot disposed interior  
to said petals.
5. The shotgun shell according to claim 4, said indicator further comprising a plug  
disposed in said casing between said ballast and said propellant.
6. The shotgun shell according to claim 5, said indicator further comprising a gas  
20 seal positioned proximate to said propellant.
7. The shotgun shell according to claim 6, said petals comprising a hinge positioned  
proximate to said gas seal.
8. The shotgun shell according to claim 2, further comprising a wad having a gas  
seal positioned between said propellant and said indicator.
- 25 9. The shotgun shell according to claim 8, said indicator further comprising one or  
more petals.
10. The shotgun shell flight path indicator according to claim 9, further comprising  
shot disposed interior to said petals.
11. The shotgun shell according to claim 10, said indicator further comprising a plug  
30 disposed in said casing between said ballast and said propellant.
12. The shotgun shell according to claim 11, said petals comprising a hinge

proximate to said primer.

13. The shotgun shell according to claim 2, wherein said ballast is integral to said indicator.

14 The shotgun shell according to claim 8, wherein said indicator is spherical in  
5 shape.

15. The shotgun shell according to claim 14, further comprising a cylindrical shot protector adjacent to said indicator opposite to said wad, said shot protector adapted for holding shot and for protecting an interior of a shotgun barrel after discharge of said propellant.

10 16. The shotgun shell according to claim 7, wherein said petals have a first at rest position extending away from said propellant and said primer and a second in flight position extending backwardly about said hinge toward said shotgun barrel following discharge from said shotgun barrel.

17. The shotgun shell according to claim 16, said indicator further comprising a  
15 pocket having a bridge and an opening opposite to said bridge, said indicator further comprising a plug disposed in said opening, said ballast being disposed in said pocket between said plug and said bridge.

18. The shotgun shell according to claim 17, said plug having an at rest position proximate to said propellant and an operational position adapted for compaction of said  
20 ballast within said pocket.

19. The shotgun shell according to claim 3, wherein said petals have a first at rest position extending away from said propellant and said primer and a second in flight position extending backwardly toward said shotgun barrel following discharge from said shotgun barrel.

25 20. The shotgun shell according to claim 19, said indicator further comprising a first compression member proximate to said ballast.

21. The shotgun shell according to claim 20, said indicator further comprising a platform engaged to said first compression member.

22. The shotgun shell according to claim 21, wherein said petals are engaged to said  
30 platform.

23. The shotgun shell according to claim 22, said indicator further comprising a support engaged to said platform interior to said petals, said support comprising a second

compression member, said ballast engaged to said support.

24. The shotgun shell according to claim 23, said indicator further comprising a recessed cavity proximate to said propellant.

25. The shotgun shell according to claim 22, said first compression member  
5 comprising a plurality of ribs.

26. The shotgun shell according to claim 2, said indicator comprising:

a) an expansible support wall having a gas seal proximate to said propellant;

b) a ballast support traversing said expansible support wall;

10 c) a first ledge traversing said expansible support wall opposite to said ballast support, said first ledge having a central opening;

d) a pocket between said first ledge, said expansible support wall, and said ballast support; and

e) slow activating powder disposed in said pocket wherein ignition of said  
15 propellant ignites said slow activating powder through said opening for expanding said expansible support wall for unaided observation of said indicator by a person relative to a target.

27. The shotgun shell according to claim 6, said indicator comprising:

20 a first ledge proximate to said gas seal, said petals engaged to said indicator proximate to said first ledge;

a plurality of support beams extending away from said first ledge;

a second ledge engaged to said support beams opposite to said first ledge, where said ballast is engaged to said support beams and to said second ledge; and

25 a breakaway shot protector engaged to said second ledge opposite to said support beams, said breakaway shot protector adapted for holding shot within said shotgun shell.

28. A shotgun shell comprising:

a) a shotgun shell casing having an ignition primer, said casing having an interior;

30 b) propellant positioned in said casing proximate to said primer;

c) a singular non-combustible, non-luminous indicator positioned in said casing, said indicator having a mass, an aerodynamic shape, and an observable

size whereby discharge of said propellant expels said indicator from said casing from a shotgun barrel for unaided observation by a person relative to a moving target.

29. The shotgun shell according to claim 28, wherein said mass and said aerodynamic  
5 shape cause said indicator to approximate a flight path of expelled shot shell pellets over a useable range of said shot shell pellets, said observable size sufficient to enable unaided observation when viewing said indicator moving relative to a moving target.

30. The shotgun shell according to claim 28, further comprising two or more  
10 indicators, each of said indicators having said mass, said shape, and said observable size when viewed singularly to enable unaided observation when viewing said indicator relative to a target.

31. The shotgun shell according to claim 28, said indicator having a color observable relative to a moving target and relative to an atmospheric background.

32. The shotgun shell according to claim 28, said indicator having a color observable  
15 relative to a moving target and relative to an earth background.

33. The shotgun shell according to claim 28, said indicator having a light reflecting surface observable relative to a moving target and relative to an atmospheric background.

34. The shotgun shell according to claim 28, said indicator having a light reflecting surface observable relative to a moving target and relative to an earth background.

20

F:\WPWORK\EEV\PATENT\8173-APP.124